



Send submissions to:

Local yokel

P.O. Box 238
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Deadline:

The second Friday of each month for the following month's issue

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☆☆☆HAPPY☆☆☆ 4TH OF JULY!

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Congratulations to Shannon Lee, age 5, the Grand Prize Winner of our Cover Art Contest, for her entry "Fireworks over the Shaker Mill Inn"

Photo by Karen Rusch

Bridge Reconstruction Moving Forward

By Tina Skorput Cooper

The Shaker Mill Pond Bridge project is moving along. Town officials, State Highway Department personnel and the contractor met at a pre-construction meeting on June 5th at the Lenox offices of the Mass. Highway Department.

A traffic pattern plan is in place for the project. The State Highway Department, the contractor and the Town all want to minimize traffic delays as much as possible and help the whole project run as smoothly as possible. There will be three lights installed for the project: one near the Shaker Mill Tavern, one at the corner of Depot and Albany Roads, and one in the area of Main, Swamp and Lenox Roads. The traffic lights will run 24/7 during the construction period and it will be one lane traffic over the bridge at all times.

The project is slated to begin in July and be completed by November 2007. The construction will begin on the north side of the pond. There will always be a walkway open for pedestrian traffic across the bridge. Once the project is complete,

there will be a new sidewalk installed on the south side of the bridge.

The Town and State Highway are working together to assure as little of a disruption as possible during this time. Please do your part and have patience, wait for the lights, take your time going through the construction zone, and be aware that when there is an emergency call (fire or police) the lights will automatically turn red when the emergency vehicle approaches the lights. This will minimize any wait time the emergency vehicle might have.

If anyone has any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Highway Department or Board of Selectmen's Office.

The Shaker Mill Pond (Route 102) bridge is slated for major repair this summer.

Photo by J. Parker



Shaker Mill Pond bridge pre-1927. A fatal accident in 1927 contributed to the building of the current bridge the same year.

Photo courtesy of Joe Masiero

Town Agricultural Commission Being Formed

By Pete Westover, Mass. Agricultural Commission

Now that the West Stockbridge Town Meeting has voted to establish an Agricultural Commission for the Town, new members for the Commission are needed. Please call Town Clerk Tina Skorput Cooper at 232-0300 if you are involved in farming or forestry activities and are interested in serving on the new Commission.

The Agricultural Commission will be one of nearly 90 such commissions in Massachusetts that have been approved or are scheduled to be voted in by the end of June 2006. More than 50 of them are in the four western counties, so there will be a strong network of farming advocates in this part of the state.

Agricultural Commissions will play an important role in supporting local farming and forestry. Typically they are involved in some or all of the following activities:

- Defining the principal agricultural and forestry-related issues that should be addressed at the town level.
- Inventorying farmers, landowners, and supporters of agriculture and forestry in town.
- Working with other town boards on agricultural issues including the protection of farmland and support for the Town's farm economy.
- Educating townspeople about farming in town – what is being grown, who is doing the farming, where to buy farm products, and how to support local agriculture.
- Developing a strategy to help with local farm marketing. Some towns have produced brochures listing farm stands and other retail outlets. Others have received marketing advice and advertising assistance from CISA and Berkshire Grown.
- Helping address complaints or resolve disputes between neighbors and farmers.
- Sponsoring agricultural events – farm festivals, open house tours of local farms, farmers' dinners, and other gatherings.
- Holding workshops for farmers on estate planning, state and federal grants, the Farm Viability Program, farmland protection, and other agricultural subjects.
- Drafting "Right to Farm" Bylaws that put the

(continued on page 10)



Farms remain an important part of West Stockbridge's economy and lifestyle.

Photo by J. Parker

*****LOCAL YOKEL CLASSIFIEDS*****

WANTED: Looking for a person available to stay at the house in West Stockbridge and sit for two large female dogs. Must be able to feed 7:30AM Breakfast, 11:30AM Treat and 4:30PM Dinner (times are approximate). Would need anywhere from two days to two weeks on occasions. Call 413-232-7762

YOURS FOR A DONATION: NordicTrack (exercise in your own home). You can own a NordicTrack for a donation to Parks and Recreation. If you are interested, please call Nancy at 232-4663.

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Some Zucchini Thoughts!

By Julia Krahm

Hopefully by now you've marked your calendar for August 12th, turning down numerous other interesting offers because you have the MORE exciting Zucchini Festival to attend! While you're at it, also keep open the evening before to help with set-up or the morning after for clean-up!

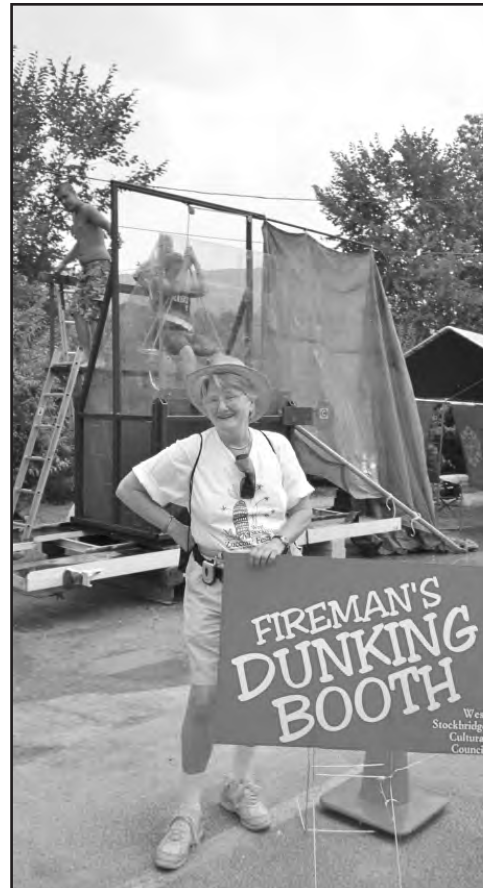
QUESTION: Does anyone know the correct number of zucchini plants to put in your garden?

ANSWER: There is no right number. If you have only one plant, it will die. If you have two or more plants, you'll be overwhelmed with zucchini!

Did you hear about the lady from the city who was visiting her friend in the country one August? Before going into the Post Office, she was surprised to see her friend roll up her windows and lock her doors. She inquired if there was much crime in town, to which her friend answered, "Heavens no! We just lock our cars to keep our neighbors from gifting us with bags full of zucchini!"

CRAFTERS AND ARTISTS: We are expanding

and creating a separate area for the craft fair this year. In order to highlight the local talent of our area, we are accepting applications only from West Stockbridge, Richmond, and Alford. What do you make with fabric or wood or stone or clay? Do you draw, paint, photograph? Even if you are uncertain, give us a call to discuss the possibilities! We would really love to have you involved at the Craft Fair portion of the festival. Contact Marjorie Powell at 232-0222 or artifact@bcn.net



Wynn Murrell stands beside a very popular attraction at last year's festival.

Photo by Ileene Mittleman

VOLUNTEERS: OK, you know you're going to help out anyway, so why not go ahead and complete the volunteer form or contact Julia Krahm at 232-7103 or krahm@hotmail.com? Otherwise someone, probably Julia, has to stand at the dump or the post office on a busy Saturday and try to find you!

COOKING CONTEST: The great Zucchini bake-off will continue this year with first, second, and third place prizes worth \$75, \$50, and \$25 awarded. Zucchini must be an ingredient! If you have questions, contact Lynn Ryan at 232-7758. Please complete the accompanying application.



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*****TOP SECRET TIPS*****

On Growing a Prize-winning Zucchini:

To grow a large zucchini, make sure you only have one squash per plant. Pinch off any other flowers so that all of the plant's strength goes into just your one giant zucchini. It is also a good idea to give the zucchini lots of nutrition and water, such as regular 10-10-10 (or similar) fertilizer, or for you organic gardeners, a good compost tea. Watch out for those little yellow squash bugs. There are waxy pepper sprays that make the leaves not as tasty to discourage these pests and (while I haven't tried this one yet) I've heard you can take a small hand vacuum, like a dust buster, and vacuum the bugs off the plants! The Zucchini Contest will be awarding \$100.00 to the heaviest zucchini entered.

Last year's entries made for weighty competition in the Zucchini Contest.

Photo by Karen Rusch



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QUOTE of The Month:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

– Margaret Mead

Submitted by Lynn Ryan
(Please volunteer for Zucchini Day on August 12th.)

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Business Profile:

HOTCHKISS MOBILES GALLERY

By Vicki Grayson

Hotchkiss Mobiles Gallery, owned by Joel and Sandra Hotchkiss, just re-opened after being closed for major renovations. In addition to beautifully re-done display areas, there are a lot of new and different art pieces for sale, including many unusual gift items and interesting things for your own house. And of course, there are the fabulous mobiles.

Joel, who graduated from the Pratt Institute with a degree in design, began creating mobiles in his spare time while he was working at a Boston advertising agency. He later moved to Oakland, where he had a studio for several years. In 1993 the family moved to West Stockbridge and opened the current gallery and workshop. During this time they also had a gallery in Lenox for six years, but eventually decided to concentrate on just West Stockbridge.

The mobiles are primarily abstract and while some are made solely of metal, many also include colorful fabrics. They are available in a wide variety of designs, sizes and prices. Joel explained that there are a lot of subtleties to creating mobiles in terms of balance, fabrication and scale. Sandra said that mobiles are the most tranquil art form and that many purchasers tell her that they spend hours relaxing while they watch the mobiles. As she points out: "This is art that performs for you".



Above: The newly-renovated Hotchkiss Mobiles Gallery on Center Street.

Photo by Joel Hotchkiss



Left: Owners Sandra and Joel Hotchkiss opened Hotchkiss Mobiles Gallery in 1993.

Photo by J. Parker

Joel designs mobiles for several museum shops including San Francisco MOMA, the Art Institute of Chicago and the Guggenheim. In addition, he sells to galleries all over the country and creates special pieces for corporate and public spaces. Besides mobiles, Joel also designs and makes unusual wall pieces.

The gallery carries painted furniture by Wendy Grossman and Bella Bella custom furniture by Lara Moore in addition to a lot of art glass and pottery. Everything in the gallery is hand-made and almost everything is made in America, the exception being a few pieces from Canada. The jewelry selection is

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unique and both Sandra and Joel have a special talent for helping each customer find the piece that will look best on them. There is also outdoor metal garden art and kinetic art, large glass wall pieces and lamps, and other types of interesting wall art. Among the new gift items are cookbooks with CDs (music appropriate for the particular type of cooking).

Sandra has a great eye for color and design and sometimes functions as a consultant – if the gallery doesn't have exactly what you're looking for, she will do a search to find the perfect piece for you. Her sideline is flower arranging and, as Joel puts it, "she is 'The Sandra', the town flower woman" (the guiding force behind the West Stockbridge Beautification committee that does all the beautiful plantings in downtown).

The gallery is not just a business for Sandra and Joel. It's very important to them that people get real pleasure from their purchases. And they approach buying for the shop in a very personal way – if both of them don't like something, they don't buy it. Between the beautiful items in the gallery and the Hotchkiss personal touch with customers, it's a very special shopping experience.



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News From Parks & Recreation

By Robert T. Powell

Our committee would like to thank all of the residents for your support. At both of the past two annual town meetings the residents voted yes to our request for funding of \$5,000 each year. This \$10,000 has been earmarked for capital improvements for town property, which Parks & Recreation oversees. We would like to re-construct the tennis court, re-work the little league infield and perhaps construct a bocce court and horseshoe area, and add grills and benches.

You are all invited to our next meeting July 18, 2006, at 7:00pm at the Village School. Bring your ideas. Fortunately we have a

healthy surplus of funds for our plans, however, we are in need of help in the form of new members. The hours are easy and the compensation is incredible.



We would like to groom a new "Zuck" Race coordinator. This is a major fundraiser at the Zucchini Festival and we could use some fresh blood and sweat.

Do not forget that Card Pond has opened for the season. Come and enjoy it!

Last year's "Zuck" Races were a lot of fun...and a big fundraiser.

Photo by Wynn Murrell

Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are what make a community like West Stockbridge so special. The organizations and Town Committees cannot function without the many volunteers that help throughout the year. Please consider giving some of your time to one of the following organizations or Town committees that are desperately seeking volunteers. Call the contact person listed and find out how you can help.



Parks and RecreationBob Powell232-0197
Council on AgingJoan Rehm232-4317
West Stockbridge Fire ServicesPeter Skorput232-7853
West Stockbridge Fire Support ServicesCarmen Morse232-4637
West Stockbridge Cultural CouncilMarge Powell232-0222
West Stockbridge Cable CommissionCarol Kuller232-0197
West Stockbridge LibraryLeslie Meltzer232-0308
Local YokelJohn Parker232-4123
Tina Skorput Cooper358-5995

If you are involved with an organization or Town committee that would like to be listed, please contact the Local Yokel.

Community News & Events

Grange Hosts Baked Bean & Ham Dinner

The Stockbridge Grange will serve a public Baked Bean and Ham Dinner on Sunday, July 9, 2006 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm at the Grange Hall on Church Street (Route 102) in Stockbridge. Cost is \$8.00 adults, \$4 children under 12, and children under 5 free. Take-out is available by calling 298-3185.

Town Clerk's Office Closed

The Town Clerk's Office will be closed for vacation June 30th thru July 7th.

Seniors Organize Musical Comedy Bus Trip

Join the West Stockbridge Seniors for a day of summer fun, lunch and OUT TO LUNCH, an original musical comedy by Doug Lapham (a.k.a. " Barnswallow Farquahr") and directed by Stan Wietrzychowski. The trip to Wright's Mill Farm in Canterbury, CT, is set for Wednesday, August 9. The bus departs from the Village School at 9:00 am and returns at approximately 6:00 pm. The cost is \$50.00 per person and includes lunch. To reserve a seat please call Joan Rehm at 232-4317. Payments may be mailed to Joan Rehm at 165 W. Center Rd., West Stockbridge, MA 01266. Payment in full must be received no later than July 15.

Tag Sale Permits

West Stockbridge Zoning Bylaws require residents to obtain a Tag Sale Permit before having a Tag Sale. The permits are valid for three consecutive days and the cost is \$5.00. Permits are issued through the Board of Selectmen's Office. Residents seeking a Tag Sale Permit can call the Selectmen's Office at 232-0319 to request the permit or they can stop in during the Administrative Assistant's hours Monday, Wednesdays and Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

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Recipe Corner

By Lynn Ryan



Firecracker Cake

It's red, white and blue – a great recipe to serve on July 4th!

1 cup sugar	Sift together:
1/4 cup butter	2 1/4 cup flour
1 egg	1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 cup milk	2 1/4 tsp. baking powder
3/4 cup blueberries	
3/4 cup raspberries	

Mix everything together and gently add the berries last or just put the berries on the top of the batter, sprinkle with a little flour and sprinkle lastly with a good dusting of sugar. Bake at 350 degrees in a 9x13 pan for 40 minutes. It's a BANG!

Send your favorite recipes to:

Lynn Ryan
17 Lenox Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

*(Town Agricultural Commission,
continued from page 3)*

town on record as being farm-friendly, list state laws that protect farming, establish a mechanism for mediating farm-related disputes, and provide a mechanism for notifying new residents that agricultural and forestry activities are expected in town.

- Developing a farmland protection plan that is consistent with the Town's open space plan, and helping develop means of funding agricultural land protection.

Training workshops and conferences for new Agricultural Commissions will be offered in western Massachusetts this coming fall. Training and other support will come from the state Department of Agricultural Resources, American Farmland Trust, Massachusetts Farm Bureau, Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA), Berkshire Grown, and other organizations.

Local Yokel Donor Roll Call

June Donors:

My Son Billy...Love Mom

Barbara Fiorini

Sybil and Michael Pollet

Bill and Lisa Korte

Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY. We couldn't do it without your support! Keep the Local Yokel coming. Send your gift today! (See response form on next page.)

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

July 6: Paula Lockenwitz

July 7: Pam Lockenwitz

July 8: Michael Skorput

July 18: Ian Babcock

July 24: Dale Skorput



West Stockbridge Compactor Station New 2007 Transfer Station Stickers Are In

West Stockbridge issues stickers by the fiscal year, July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. All residents using the Transfer Station must have a new sticker – available at the Transfer Station during regular operating hours. No exceptions!

Hours:

Tues., Thurs.
10am-6pm
Sat. 8am-6pm
232-0307
Bill Pixley,
Attendant



Please Support The
Local Yoke!

For this newsletter to survive and grow, we need your support! Here's the deal: for your donation of at least \$10.00 per year we will mail each issue to you (unless you prefer otherwise). The *Local Yoke!* will continue to be available free of charge at distribution sites around town.

YES! I want to support the **Local Yoke!**
Enclosed is my donation of _____,
made payable to WSLY.

Check any that apply:

- I would like my contribution to remain anonymous.
- Thanks, but don't mail the *Local Yoke!* to me.
- I would like to get involved with the *Local Yoke!* (we need correspondents, photographers, help with distribution and advertising).

Name (as you want it to appear in acknowledgements)

Address (location you would like the Local Yoke sent)

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Please mail this form with your check to: WSLY, P.O. Box 238. West Stockbridge, MA 01266.

Town Government Offices and Hours

Assessors Office	232-0303	Tues. 7-9pm; Wed., Thurs., 9:30-12:30pm; Sat. morning by appointment
Board of Health	232-7048	Fri. 9am-4pm
Board of Selectmen's Office	232-0319 bosws@bcn.net	Mon., Wed., Fri., 8:30am-4:30pm
Building Inspector	232-0313	Mon. 7pm
Compactor Station	232-0307	Tues., Thurs., 10am-6pm; Sat. 8am-6pm
Conservation Commission	232-0300	
Fire Department	232-4490 (non-emergency)	Fire Chief's Office Hours Mon. 6:30pm-9:00pm
Highway Department	232-0305	
Library	232-0308	Wed. 9-12 noon, 2-5pm; Thurs. 10-12 noon, 2-5pm; Fri. 5-8pm; Sat. 2-5pm
Police Department	232-8500 (non-emergency)	
Post Office	232-8544	Lobby: 7am-7pm, 7 days/week Window: M-F 9am-4:30pm; Sat. 9-12 noon
Town Accountant	232-0316	
Town Clerk	232-0300 wstnclerk@msn.com	Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8am-3pm
Town Collector	232-0302	Mon.-Fri. 10am-3pm
Town Treasurer	232-0316	

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Local Yokel
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JULY 2006						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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30	31					

July 2006 Calendar of Events			
DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
July 4	★★★★HAPPY 4TH OF JULY – TOWN OFFICES CLOSED★★★★		
July 6	Conservation Commission Meeting	7:00 pm	Village School
	Board of Health Meeting	7:00 pm	Town Hall
July 9	Ham and Baked Bean Dinner	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Stockbridge Grange
July 10	Board of Selectmen’s Meeting	6:30 pm	Village School
July 17	Board of Selectmen’s Meeting	6:30 pm	Village School
July 18	Parks and Recreation Meeting	7:00 pm	Village School
	Finance Committee Meeting	7:30 pm	Village School
July 22	Library Book Sale	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Library
July 24	Board of Selectmen’s Meeting	6:30 pm	Village School
July 25	Pensi Il Verde Investment Club Meeting	7:00 pm	St. Patrick’s Parish Center
July 31	Board of Selectmen’s Meeting	6:30 pm	Village School

The Local Yokel is now available online at
www.weststockbridgetown.com